



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Engineer Research and
Development Center

VegSpec 3.0

Technology

VegSpec is an Internet-based, automated decision support system that helps land managers select appropriate plant species for any given soil, climate, and revegetation goal. VegSpec was developed for land reclamation practices including cover crops, critical area planting, windbreaks, native habitat restoration, filter strips, pasture planting, range planting, and tree and shrub planting. The VegSpec user need only identify the desired practice, soil series, nearest climate station, and minimal site information to arrive at a list of plant species adapted to the site. The program helps the user design the planting operation, including planting dates, planting method, propagule treatment, seedbed/site preparation, temporary cover, soil amendments, etc.

Problem

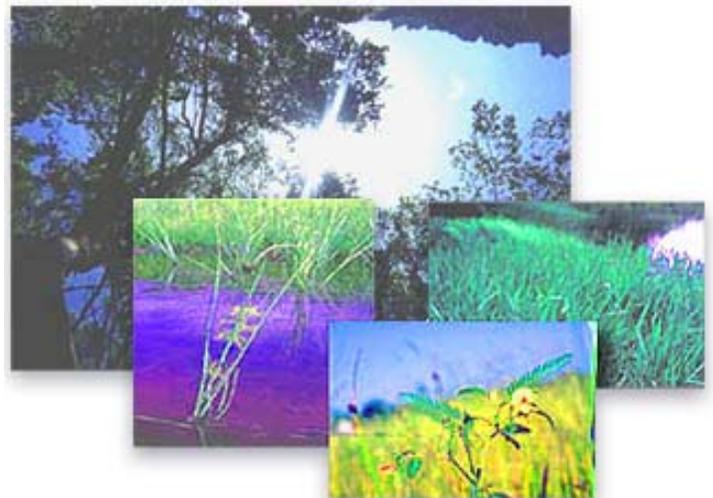
Although several thousand woody and herbaceous plant species are commercially available for revegetation of damaged lands, experts in the revegetation industry suggest that revegetation projects fail 10 to 35 percent of the time, depending on the geographic region. Among the most frequently cited reasons for failure are improper selection of species and improper species mixtures. A significant percentage of the time, the species selected are either not adapted to the site conditions or not adapted to the intended uses of the land.

Expected Cost To Implement

VegSpec is publicly accessible through the Internet free of charge.

Benefits/Savings

VegSpec allows for a more targeted use of revegetation techniques in support of military land management. This product promotes long-term sustainment of the revegetated areas. Properly used, VegSpec would effect a 10 to 15 percent reduction in the cost of revegetation projects Army-wide.



Status

VegSpec 3.0 is presently available via the Internet.

ERDC POC

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Distribution Source

VegSpec is Internet-based software, which can be accessed through URL:

<http://ironwood.itc.nrcs.usda.gov/Netdynamics/Vegspec/pages/HomeVegspec.htm>

Documentation

VegSpec is Internet-based software. Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ's) and online contact information are provided through the VegSpec site.

Available Training

Users already familiar with using an Internet browser should be well equipped to use the VegSpec, Internet-based software. Question may be directed to the program's listed contact:

psmith@itc.nrcs.usda.gov

Available Support

Help modules are programmed into the VegSpec web pages. E-mail support is also available via the Internet.